

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 490

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to express the sorrow of the General Assembly at the death of Jim Kennedy, former chief of staff and Deputy Governor for Governor Ned McWherter.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly and Tennesseans from all walks of life were deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the untimely passing of James H. Kennedy, one of the most accomplished and dedicated public servants this state has ever produced; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kennedy was a native of Raleigh, North Carolina and received his baccalaureate degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, he began his distinguished career in Tennessee state government as press secretary for the House Democratic Caucus in 1973, turning in his customary brilliant performance in this challenging position; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kennedy earned the highest admiration and respect of both the pillars of state government and his colleagues during his meritorious tenure, first as Governor McWherter's chief of staff and later as Tennessee's deputy governor, distinguishing himself on Capitol Hill as a man of great talent and intellect; and

WHEREAS, his singular management expertise and his ability to forge positive and lasting relationships with people served him well as vice chancellor for administration and facilities management for the Tennessee Board of Regents, in which position he excelled at managing the board's capital construction program and personnel; and

WHEREAS, this exemplary public servant truly served his fellow citizens with acumen, alacrity and devotion that future generations would do well to emulate; and

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WHEREAS, an estimable gentleman of rare probity and unquestionable integrity, Jim Kennedy served the good people of Tennessee with his mind, heart and soul; no barrier was too great to vanquish to further the cause of equitable and responsible state government; and

WHEREAS, Governor McWherter described Jim Kennedy as an honest and very decent person who was “fiercely loyal”; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kennedy has left behind an indelible legacy of effective public service that will not soon be equaled; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Mary, and their three children, Molly, Sam and Neeley; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kennedy worked assiduously to ensure the health and prosperity of his fellow Tennesseans, not for personal gain or recognition, but rather, in the finest tradition of public service, for the satisfaction of knowing his endeavors enhanced and improved the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, his skills and perspicacity as a public servant, his respect for and dedication to the very values that make Tennessee “The Volunteer State,” and his unwavering devotion to the duties of his office all stand as final testament to Jim Kennedy’s life of purpose and commitment; and

WHEREAS, men of his august stature do not often walk among us, and it is thus appropriate that this General Assembly should pay tribute to this estimable public servant and exceptional man; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the members of this General Assembly hereby express our sorrow and profound sense of loss at the death of James H. Kennedy, reflecting fondly on his public life spent astutely serving the people of Tennessee and his private life as a devoted husband and loving father.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and extend our condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Kennedy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.